

Caring for those who cared for you.

2010 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY Thank you for all the help you have given me while I was ill. You are truly appreciated. You are one of the main reasons that I am thankful this year. All you've done for me makes my life feel safer and more comfortable.

2011 GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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2011 GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS

James McGee, Chair James Pascoe, Vice-Chair Ralph Soffredine, Treasurer Rodetta Harrand, Secretary Mary Andrews, Past Chair Christine Maxbauer, County Commissioner

Shawn Burt Steve Chapman Ellen Exworthy Donn Gresso Stacey Lee Isles Michelle Mercer Al Pedwaydon Melanie Stanton Shirley Zerafa



I sing your praises often.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Grand Traverse County Commission on Aging is to improve the quality of life for resident senior citizens.

VISION STATEMENT

The Grand Traverse County Commission on Aging will continue to be an organization widely recognized and highly regarded in the community, well funded by millage, endowment funding and fees. Its focus will be to help all senior citizens, particularly those in greatest need. This will be achieved by providing services that will help maintain a high quality of life for senior citizens and enabling them to remain in their homes.

The Commission on Aging will take pride in its caring, professional and competitively compensated staff. The dedicated and knowledgeable Board of Directors will be a driving source of innovation and achievement.

The Commission on Aging will promote wellness and provide health education to senior citizens and will be a leader in the county, providing services, information and referrals.

Words cannot express my deep heart feelings
that I have for you all. Your girls Liza and Tracy, Julie and Cindy
restore joy in my heart and life. Your kindness and
compassion will always be remembered and appreciated.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION ON AGING

- The Commission on Aging was organized in 1975.
- Our main goal is to provide services that help senior citizens remain living safely at home.
- Family members and other caregivers benefit from Commission on Aging service coordination and information provided.
- The Commission on Aging works closely with other organizations to provide quality and coordinated care.
- The Commission on Aging is governed by a fifteen-member volunteer board, the majority of whom are senior citizens 60 years of age or older. All members are appointed by the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners.
- Activities are overseen by Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners.
- The Commission on Aging is funded, almost solely, by a small local millage (0.4858 mills in 2010).
- The Commission on Aging is a tax-exempt organization.
- The Commission on Aging has an endowment fund that was established with the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation in 1999.
- For the safety of our clients, all staff are fingerprinted, drug tested and have local and Department of Human Services background checks before hiring.

Thank you so much for your help with the medication.

Our community is so fortunate to have the COA to do the many things you do to help our seniors.



MEMBERS of the Grand Traverse County Commission On Aging board of directors are (front row, from left) Shirley Zerafa, Stacey Lee Isles, Michelle Mercer, James McGee, board chairman; Rodetta Harrand, Mary Andrews, Steve Chapman and Ellen Exworthy. Back row: Georgia Durga, agency director; Christine Maxbaurer, County Commission representative; James Pascoe, Shawn Burt, Ralph Soffredine, Melanie Stanton, Donn Gresso, Al Pedwaydon and Cyndie Forster, COA office associate.



Georgia Durga, GTCOA Director

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Commission on Aging,

On behalf of our clients, our staff, and our board, I'd like to thank everyone who helped with, and voted for our millage renewal in 2010. Without the support of our taxpayers, we would not be able to provide the many services we offer to Grand Traverse County senior citizens. Ours is truly a caring community.

In addition to the renewal, we also asked voters for support of a new millage to establish and operate a county-wide senior center network. This millage was also approved. The senior center network project had already been started by the Commission on Aging many years back through small grants to Kingsley, Fife Lake, and Long Lake Senior Centers, as well as a larger grant to the Traverse City Senior Center to expand the project in 2010.

Also in 2010, under the direction of the Traverse City Senior Center, informational meetings were held in three parts of Grand Traverse County—the east side, the west side and the south side—using contractor and former Commission on Aging board member, George McBath. All areas expressed great interest in bringing programming to the outlying parts of the county that they represented and work has already started.

We continue to work diligently to meet the needs of the growing senior citizen population. Our focus has been on great customer service. Our staff receive many hours of training each year to assure continued quality.

I would like to end by thanking our wonderful staff, who go above and beyond what their job description requires; to our board members who bring many hours of volunteer time, great ideas, and dedication to the Grand Traverse County senior citizens and to the Commission on Aging; and to the County Board of Commissioners for their ongoing support of our services.

Very truly yours, Georgia Durga, Director

I watched two Commission on Aging workers do their jobs and do them very, very well.

From the comments I heard from the clients, I began looking for wings, for surely

these two ladies were angels in disquise.

COMMISSION ON AGING 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SERVICE EXPANSION

Increased unduplicated client count from 1,715 to 2,023 (18%), and increased hours/units of service from 49,881 to 64,274 (29%).

Highlights - Expanded the Personal Emergency Response program (contracted through Guardian Medical Monitoring) from 370 to 500 units (35%). Increased in-home assessments from 1,906 to 2,159(13%). Increased emergency financial assistance from 155 to 308 clients (99%). Expanded foot care units from 1,765 to 2,436 (38%). Received 37,173 calls and visits in 2010 (one call or visit every 3.36 minutes). This is an increase of 11,044 calls and visits (42%). Expanded the Baskets of Bounty holiday gift giving program from 80 to 140 clients (75%).

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

Implemented two new transportation services -1.) Sold Bay Area Transportation Authority (BATA) bus passes, at reduced rates, to resident senior citizens, and, 2.) Sold transportation vouchers to resident senior citizens, at reduced rates, to be used for rides from local vendors including taxi cab companies, home health care companies and other transportation companies.

VOUCHER SERVICES FOR WAIT LIST CLIENTS

Implemented a wait list policy and developed a method to provide services to persons on certain wait lists using local vendors meeting Commission on Aging criteria.

FUNDING TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The Commission on Aging awarded \$ 84,800 in millage funds to community organizations for senior citizen services as follows: Traverse City Senior Center - \$36,900, Meals on Wheels - \$20,535, Grand Traverse Pavilions (blanket warmers) - \$12,000, Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan - \$6,965, Catholic Human Services Senior Companion program - \$5,000, Long Lake Township (Long Lake Senior Center) - \$1,200, Paradise Township (Kingsley Area Retirees) - \$1,200, MSU Extension Office Project Fresh - \$1,000.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Began work on keeping Grand Traverse County taxpayers informed about the operations of the Commission on Aging and how tax dollars are being spent through distribution of an abbreviated annual report, letters to the editor, informational newspaper articles, and radio and television pieces.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Completed a board member profile to identify gaps in geography and talent and to assist with the recruitment process. Note – all Commission on Aging board members are appointed by the County Board of Commissioners.

MILLAGE RENEWAL, COMMISSION ON AGING

Successfully renewed a millage of 0.5 mills for the operations of the Commission on Aging. The millage renewal was approved by almost 81% of Grand Traverse County voters. No Federal, State or County general funds were received by the Commission on Aging.

COUNTY-WIDE SENIOR CENTER NETWORK

Worked with the Traverse City Senior Center (including awarding a grant of \$31,200) to begin the development of a county-wide senior center network. Meetings were held in Interlochen, Kingsley, and Acme to determine interest and to locate leaders and volunteers. Funding from the Commission on Aging was used to contract with a coordinator to help establish the network and to begin the process of bringing Traverse City Senior Center programming to outlying parts of Grand Traverse County.

NEW MILLAGE, SENIOR CENTER NETWORK

Successfully passed a new millage of 0.1 mills to fund a county-wide senior center network and the operations of the Traverse City Senior Center. The millage request was approved by over 69% of Grand Traverse County voters.

TRAVERSE CITY SENIOR CENTER MERGER

With the successful passing of a millage for Senior Center operations, the Commission on Aging/Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners began the process of working to merge the Traverse City Senior Center with the Commission on Aging. The process will be completed in 2011.

CLIENTS SERVED IN 2010

CLIENTS	HOURS/UNITS OF DIRECT SERVICE
37,173	37,173
876	17,065
173	7,489
1,010	8,914
113	7,108
2,159	2,159
*2,436	2,436
712	5,324
37	37
140	140
308	308
83	83
311	311
*234	234
*2,654	2,654
*1,271	1,271
	37,173 876 173 1,010 113 2,159 *2,436 712 37 140 308 83 311 *234 *2,654

*Count is not unduplicated

2010 TOWNSHIP REPORT

TOWNSHIP/CITY	CLIENTS SERVED	HOURS OF SERVICE
Acme	64	2,144
Blair	101	2,620
City of Traverse City	532	16,065
East Bay	170	5,825
Fife Lake	49	1,512
Garfield	707	23,813
Grant	12	361
Green Lake	84	2,403
Long Lake	72	2,352
Mayfield	15	345
Paradise	66	1,401
Peninsula	126	4,383
Union	5	429
Whitewater	20	621
TOTALS	2,023	64,274

CLIENT PROFILE

Total unique clients served: 2,023

Average client age: 80 years

Average Annual Client Income:

Single—\$ 18,240 Couple—\$29,712

PROFILE: Evelyn Millward



BACKGROUND: Evelyn, 83, and her husband Dale, 79, have lived in Traverse City for 12 years, having moved here from the Flint area. She was born in Johnstown, PA, to a large, close knit Lebanese family. Work and good cooking, lots of it, and a strong Christian faith and plenty of love were among the staples of her upbringing.

FAMILY: Two children, Rev. Daniel Millward, pastor of the Presbyterian Church on Wadsworth and Ninth Streets; and a daughter, Yvonne, who lives in Arizona with her family; 8 grand kids and 15 great grand children. Dale and Evie will have been married 60 years in August.

CAREER: Evie has worked a series of jobs in her life, including being a merchandise buyer and department store manager, and even owning her own hair salon. But her most memorable one was managing the executive dining room of General Motors. It was there that she and her culinary staff catered to the captains of industry and notables who frequented the facilities. "When she took over, the place was operating in the red," notes Dale, who worked for GM in a supervisory capacity for 31 years. "It wasn't long and they were operating in the black. She over saw everything and was a great manager and people person. She never asked anyone to do something she wouldn't do herself—or had done."

LIFE PHILOSOPHY: "I've always worked hard and tried to be honorable to everyone, while always being there for my family. Whenever I worked for someone, I pretended it was my business. You put your heart into it and good things will happen. I've been blessed that I've met so many wonderful people. And that the Lord was always beside me."

FAVORITE DESSERT: Baklava

FAVORITE HOBBY, ACTIVITY: Cooking. Family favorites include many Lebanese dishes. Homemade hummus and meat pies are specialties.

LAST BOOK READ: The Bible

FAVORITE MOVIE: Sound of Music

FAVORITE MUSIC: Operas, Sound track of the *Phantom of the Opera*. (Husband Dale, who has one of those mellifluous voices made for broadcast, does a mean version of "O Solo Mio...")

LIFE ROLE MODEL: "My grandfather. He was a grocer who always helped people in need. As a little girl I watched him closely and learned much."

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW:

"It has always been a mission in life to help people in need." ("She's the greatest people person I've ever met," adds Dale.)

SIGNIFICANT

ACCOMPLISHMENT: Operating the GM executive dining room profitably and winning multiple awards for it.

PROUDEST MOMENT(S): "The births of our children; watching them grow; and now appreciating our grand children and great grand children."

MOST FAMOUS PERSON MET:

"Mark "The Bird" Fydrich, pitcher for the Detroit Tigers. We hosted him and the entire Tigers' baseball team in the GM dining room. What an experience that was."

FUNNIEST THING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU: "We were stuck in a snowstorm on the Pennsylvania Turnpike and finally were able to make it to an off ramp and nearby Holiday Inn. The manager told Dale they had no rooms because people had reserved them in advance of the storm. Dale told him that most of those reservations were never going to make it. And sure enough, we wound up with a room and so did a lot of other stranded travelers. In fact, before the night was out people were sleeping on the floor of the lobby. The funny part was that the manager was wringing his hands because he didn't know how he was going to feed everyone. Dale told him I'd take care of it.

So the manager turned his kitchen over to me. And we wound up serving everyone a nice buffet at \$8 a head. Some people might not have had a bed that night. But at least they weren't hungry. We still chuckle about that experience."

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO

ADD: "We've been proud to help at the Cottage Café's fund raising dinners for the Traverse City Senior Center for the past five years. Also, I feel guilty about all this talk about me. The Lord wants you to do everything you can for his people. That's what I've spent my life trying to do. It's not about me..."



PROFILE: Ellen Exworthy

BACKGROUND: Ellen has lived in Traverse City for over 20 years, moving from the Detroit area to help care for her grandson, Max Walker, who's now a U.S. Coast Guard Academy upperclassman in New London, Connecticut. Her activity level belies her age of 80 something. In addition to her work with the Commission On Aging, she volunteers at the library, Congregational Church, and is active in the retired teachers' association and Republican women. You might find her at home, but typically when entertaining friends. She was raised in a large family of seven siblings in the Upper Peninsula community of Pequaming, built by Henry Ford (see below). Her parents, Edna and Lawrence Sikorsky, Russian émigrés, originally settled in Wabeo, Wisconsin. An opportunity to manage a sawmill in Pequaming brought them to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. There, she enjoyed an idyllic childhood. In addition to helping her mother at home, she hunted and fished with her brothers and enjoyed growing up along the Lake Superior shoreline.

FAMILY: Two daughters: Laurie Walker of Traverse City, and the late Dianne Appel, a teacher, who died prematurely of cancer. Grandchildren: Max Walker, son of Laurie and Bill; and David and Lisa, Dianne's children. Ellen and her late husband, Dr. Edward Exworthy, long time education professor at Wayne State University, had been married for 32 years when he passed away.

CAREER: One of seven children, education was important in her family "My father always used to say that education was the light of the world," recalls Ellen. Valedictorian and class president of the Pequaming High School class of 1939, she went on to earn a degree with honors in home economics from Northern Michigan University, Marquette, and later a masters degree from Wayne State. She spent 40 years as an educator, with the bulk of her career in the Southfield and Detroit school districts, as well as some community college teaching. Offered a principal ship at one point in her career, she elected to remain in the classroom.

FAVORITE DESSERT: Angel Food Cake

FAVORITE HOBBY, ACTIVITY: Entertaining and helping people; staging events that draw people together.

LAST BOOK READ: *Whistling In the Dark* by Frederick Buechner. Enjoys books about psychology and auto biographies.

FAVORITE MOVIE: Fiddler On The Roof and Gone With the Wind

FAVORITE MUSIC: Strangers In The Night

LIFE ROLE MODEL: Parents

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW:

"I'm sensitive and recently lost three very dear friends. We would meet most Friday evenings and do something fun, then return to my home for dessert. Losing good friends is one of the toughest things about aging."

PROUDEST MOMENT(S): "My first teaching job out of college. It was in Escanaba and I literally had to create the home making department from scratch. We had a single room to house it and no money. To top that, we were charged with staging an event for parents. Somehow we did it. That was my start in the teaching profession."

MOST FAMOUS PERSON MET: Henry Ford

SECRET AMBITION: "To live to be 100, while providing help to humanity in the meantime. And to let people know that just because we Seniors have gray hair and wobbly knees, that doesn't mean we can't still be useful to society."

IF YOU COULD BE ANYONE IN THE WORLD, WHO WOULD THAT BE AND WHY? "I'm content with who I am."

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO ADD: "I grew up in the town of Pequaming, located on a peninsula that jutted out into Lake Superior and about eight miles from L'Anse. Henry Ford had a home there where he would spend several weeks every summer. He literally built the community, including our school and many of our buildings. He owned several sawmills in the area and large tracts of woodland. The wood that was harvested was shipped by boat to Ford's production facilities in Detroit. My Dad was a foreman at one of the mills. And when I was 14, I helped prepare and serve dinner for Mr. Ford. Later, in the kitchen doing dishes, he came out to thank me. I'll never forget it. My hands were in the dishwater, and he took them and said he understood I was the one who had made the cookies (chocolate with mint filling). 'Those were such good cookies,' he told me. 'I'm going to take some back with me.' All of the kids in Pequaming knew who he was. He would come to the town dances and dance with us. We'd laugh at his high top shoes and skinny pants. He was always very gracious. His home had gold gilded faucets. They became a symbol of striving for us---giving us the courage to reach in life and work hard to achieve nice things. One time Mr. Ford was visiting one of his mills where my Dad was the foreman. He misplaced his hat, and in the scurry to find it he promised any person who found it a job for life. Dad found it and never lacked for a job again."



I want to thank the Commission on

Aging for sending such a wonderful, caring respite work for the last years of my sister's life.

Sue loved Rhonda and Rhonda loved
Sue. Our family is so grateful for your organization and especially for Rhonda!

I want to thank you for trimming the tree in my yard.

The branches were hanging so low I wasn't able to leave my porch. It feels so good to be able to walk around the yard again.

MEMBERSHIP

The Commission on Aging was a member of, or participated in the following organizations and programs:

AARP Driver Safety

AARP Tax Preparation

Alzheimer's Memory Walk

Area Agency on Aging Board

Bay Area Senior Advocates (BASA)

Bay Area Transportation Authority Local Advisory Board (BATA)

Blair Township Health Fair/Family Day

Camp 911

Catholic Human Services Senior Volunteer Recognition

Grand Traverse Area Parkinson's Support Group

Grand Traverse Band Health Fair

Grand Traverse Senior Support Team

Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging (MDSA)

National Indian Council on Aging Conference

Northwestern Michigan College BBQ Board & BBQ

Northwestern Michigan Fair

Parkinson's Summer Forum

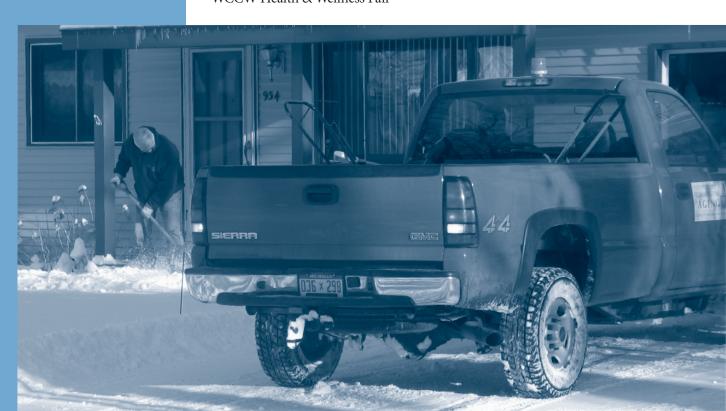
Region Ten Senior Games & Committee

Senior Empower Day

Traverse City Fire Department Open House

Traverse City Senior Center Advisory Board

WCCW Health & Wellness Fair



PROFILE: Karen Zenner

BACKGROUND: Karen is a native of Kingsley where she was raised on a farm and is the youngest of ten siblings. A 1981 graduate of Kingsley High School, she's the daughter of Virginia Olds of Kingsley, long time county commissioner and former GTCOA board member. In addition to her work and family, Karen has been a member of the Northwest Michigan Fair Board for 20 years. Known for her independence, strong work ethic, and ability to fix anything on the job (a trait she says she learned growing up on the farm), Karen's the senior member of the COA's highly regarded homemaker aide staff.

FAMILY: Two children: a daughter, Melissa, age 27, who also works at the COA; and son Ryan, 25, recently returned from the U.S. Air Force following over five years of service. Melissa has two children: Madelynne, 6, and Carson, 2.5, making Karen a Grandmother twice over. Her significant other, Dean, also works at the COA.

FAVORITE DESSERT: Cheesecake with blueberry topping

FAVORITE HOBBY, ACTIVITY: Gardening, deer hunting, anything connected to just being outdoors. Camping and tubing the Boardman River are favorite activities.

FAVORITE SONG: *Colder Weather* by the Zach Brown Band; *Independence Day* by Martina McBride.

OTHER FAVORITES: Color: *orange*; basketball team: *University of Michigan*; basketball player: *Blake Griffin*.

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW:



"As a member of the high school girls' basketball team, we made it to the state tournament quarter finals, then lost by two points."

PROUDEST MOMENT(S): "When our grand children were born."

MOST FAMOUS PERSON MET: The Oakridge Boys

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO ADD:

"Being a home maker aide sometimes allows you to be part of your client's life. They become almost like grandparents.

Some of the Seniors we work with don't have family living nearby. They don't want to be a bother to neighbors or their pastor, so they're hesitant about asking for favors. That's when I'll tell them that I can run some of those errands for them, or do extra things for them. I grew up in a large family that was non-confrontational. We got along. So that's probably why I'm the way I am. If a client wants something yellow, then we make it yellow. I really don't expect thanks. I just do what I can for the Seniors I work with."

Once again, Mom and I want to let all of you at the Commission on Aging know how much we appreciate

all the good deeds done to make life a little easier for Mom and me—her caregiver.

2010 FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE

TOTAL	\$ 2	2,556,347
Millage	\$ 2	2,116,062
Charges for Services	\$	179,512
Fund Balance	\$	178,767
Interest Earned	\$	25,013
Local Grant	\$	24,321
Contributions & Memorials	\$	21,592
Other		
(Sales of fixed assets, United Way, reimbursements)	\$	11,080

EXPENDITURES

TOTAL	\$ 2,556,347
Personnel Expenses	
Salary and benefits	\$ 1,772,347
Commodities	
Office supplies, printing, baskets of bounty,	
copying, postage, uniforms, small tools,	
equipment, gas, oil, other supplies	\$ 139,530
Contractual Services	
Contract services (transportation, wait lists,	
PERS), auditing, dues, subscriptions, data	
processing, telephone services, travel, conferences,	
wait list vouchers	\$ 406,465
Other Charges	
Advertising, equipment repair, building rent,	
employee training, utilities (garage), vehicle	
repairs, insurance, funds to outside agencies	
(Area Agency on Aging, Senior Centers, Home	
Delivered Meals, Senior Companion, Project Fresh)	\$ 238,005
Capital Outlay	
Buildings, machinery/equipment,	
vehicles, office equipment	\$ 0

ANNUAL AUDIT

The Grand Traverse County Commission on Aging is audited annually as part of the Grand Traverse County audit. The audit was conducted by Dennis, Gartland, and Niergarth for year 2009.



2011 STAFF MEMBERS

DIRECTOR

Georgia Durga

SUPERVISORS

Jill C., Program Supervisor Emily R., RN, Nursing Supervisor

OFFICE STAFF

Cyndie F., Office Specialist Lana P., Office Specialist Danielle D., Clerk Brooke B., Clerk Brandy H.

ASSESSMENT AIDE

Shayeann G., CNA, Assessment Specialist

FOOT CARE NURSES

Nancy I., LPN Pat M., RN

HOME CHORE CREW

Curt B. Norm M.
Dean D. Brad P.
Kevin J. Richard R.
Jim M. Don S.

HOME HEALTH AND RESPITE AIDES

Kelly C., CNA Susan P., CNA
Julie D., CNA Lisa P., CNA
Karen F., CNA Dorothy S., CNA
Christine M., CNA Brenda V., CNA
Liza P., CNA Rhonda Y., CNA

HOMEMAKER AIDES

Patti B. Karen R.
Chris C. Carla S.
Rita D. Phyllis W.
Cindy K. Olivia W.
Tracy M. Karen Z.
Connie N. Melissa Z.

Erica R.

SENIOR CENTER

Lori Wells, Director Pat T., Program Coordinator



Caring for those who cared for you.

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